

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 NIC-01 SAJ-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OIC-04 NEA-10

TRSE-00 EB-11 AEC-11 OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /174 W

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P R 301034Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7405

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4635

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR US

SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA COMMENTS ON KISSINGER VISIT

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

1. SUMMARY. IZVESTIYA ARTICLE BY COMMENTATOR REPUTED TO HAVE TIES TO BREZHNEV REBUTS PESSIMISTIC WESTERN ASSESSMENTS OF KISSINGER VISIT BUT TAKES SOBER VIEW OF SALT PROSPECTS, CITING U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX (PERHAPS WITH A SIDELONG GLANCE AT THE SOVIET COUNTERPART). NO COMMENT YET FROM PRAVDA. END SUMMARY.

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2. IZVESTIYA (EVENING OF MARCH 29, IN FIRST SOVIET PRESS

COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S VISIT, MAKES GENERALLY POSITIVE EVALUATION OF VISIT AND OF SUMMIT PROSPECTS. PARAPHRASING COMMUNIQUE AND GROMYKO TOASTS, COMMENTATOR ALEKSANDR BOVIN POINTS TO "BUSINESSLIKE, CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE" OF TALKS. THEIR TONE AND CONTENT, HE SAYS, BELIE "PESSIMISTIC ACCOMPANIMENT" OF SOME WESTERN INFORMATION ORGANS. BOVIN HIMSELF, HOWEVER, EMPHASIZED COMPLEXITY OF PROBLEMS, NOTES THAT NOT ALL OF THEM HAVE YET FOUND A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION, AND SAYS THAT IN FUTURE NEW DIFFICULTIES CAN ARISE. HE REFERS GENERALLY TO "CERTAIN CIRCLES" IN U.S. WHO TRY TO PUT OBSTACLES IN WAY OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, THEN ZEROES IN ON "SOME POLITICIANS ON CAPITOL HILL" WHO SEEK TO APPLY PRESSURE ON SOVIET UNION OVER MFN.

3. IN HIS GLOSS OF THE SALT DISCUSSIONS BOVIN REFLECTS LITTLE OPTIMISM. HE SAYS THAT IT IS NOT SIMPLE TO FIND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS TO SUCH A COMPLICATED PROBLEM. IN THAT REGARD, HE DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX AND TO DIFFERENCES OF OPINION IN THE PENTAGON. FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH, NOT SPECIFICALLY KEYED TO SALT, CALLS FOR "PERSISTENT, PATIENT WORK AIMED AT OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES" AND SAYS THAT THE KISSINGER VISIT SHOWED THAT WITH "CONSISTENT, REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH BY BOTH SIDES" IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS.

4. BOVIN'S DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST UNDERLINES THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CONCRETE PARTIAL MEASURES DEPENDS ON HOW FAR THEY HELP MOVE THE SITUATION TOWARD A STABLE AND JUST POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

5. ON CSCE, BOVIN COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON "CLOSENESS OF POSITIONS ON SERIES OF QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE."

6. SUMMING UP, BOVIN SAYS TALKS WITH KISSINGER SHOWS THAT U.S. AND SOVIET UNION CONTINUE TO ACCUMULATE GOOD EXPERIENCE IN CONSTRUCTIVE AND BUSINESSLIKE EXCHANGES OF OPINION; THAT "THERE IS NO REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE" TO FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS; AND THAT THE RELIABILITY AND STABILITY OF THESE RELATIONS DEPEND ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF

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CONCRETE PROBLEMS. HE EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE THAT THE UPCOMING VISIT BY PRESIDENT NIXON WILL MAKE POSSIBLE MAJOR NEW STEPS IN FURTHER IMPROVING RELATIONS.

7. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT PRAVDA HAS THUS FAR WITHHELD COMMENT ON THE VISIT AND HAS NOT EVEN PROVIDED A SUMMARY OF FOREIGN COMMENT. WE EXPECT PRAVDA TO COMMENT ON SUNDAY.

8. BOVIN HIMSELF HAS AN INTERESTING BACKGROUND, HAVING PUBLISHED RELATIVELY FORWARD-LOOKING ARTICLES ON IDEOLOGICAL AND FOREIGN POLICY SUBJECTS UNDER BOTH KHRUSHCHEV AND BREZHNEV AND HAVING AT ONE POINT BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH BREZHNEV IN THE CC APPARATUS. OUR OWN CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM HAVE TENDED TO CONFIRM THAT HE TAKES A "MODERN" VIEW-POINT, BUT WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH A CURRENT LINK BETWEEN HIM AND BREZHNEV. HE AND ONE OF THE LEADING PRAVDA COMMENTATORS (BOLSHAKOV) DEMONSTRATE AN OPEN ANTIPATHY FOR EACH OTHER IN PUBLIC.

9. BOVIN'S APPROACH IS SOMEWHAT CONTRADICTIONARY. WHILE REJECTING PESSIMISTIC ASSESSMENTS BY WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS, HE ACKNOWLEDGES THE DIFFICULTY OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON SALT. WE ASSUME THAT, AS OFTEN IS THE CASE IN SOVIET COMMENTARIES, THE REFERENCE TO DIFFICULTIES WITH THE U.S. MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IS INTENDED TO BE READ ALSO AS APPLYING TO THE SOVIET COUNTERPART. IN FACT, IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HERE THIS WEEK, SOVIET JOURNALISTS HAVE REFERRED TO THEIR OWN "MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX" AND THEIR OWN "JACKSONITES." SUCH REFERENCES ARE OF COURSE SELF-SERVING, BUT MAY NEVERTHELESS REFLECT A DEGREE OF REALITY.
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